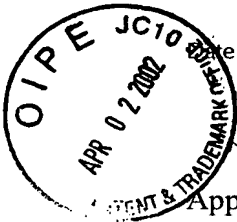


#7
Dimitris
5-2302
Pre-Amendment
CP 2838

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Date of Signature and Deposit: March 22, 2002

Adam J. Finn
Attorney of Record

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): William H. Bushong et al.
Serial No.: 10/045,934
Filed: October 19, 2001
For: Method and Apparatus for Regulating Charging of Electrochemical Cells
Group Art Unit: 2838
Docket No.: 780396.91470

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Prior to the substantive examination of the above-captioned application, please amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following amended claims should be substituted for the like numbered claims that were filed with the patent Application. A version of the amended claims with markings to show changes made is attached to the end of this communication.

Amended Claims

1. (Amended) An axially extending rechargeable electrochemical cell comprising:
- (a) an outer can defining an internal cavity with an open end, a positive and negative electrode disposed in the internal cavity, and a terminal end cap enclosing the open end; and
 - (b) an end cap assembly including:
 - i. a flexible member extending radially inwardly from the can, wherein the flexible member flexes from a first position towards a second position in response to internal cell pressure;
 - ii. a first conductive element in electrical communication with the terminal end cap;